The Southern PATRIOT

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As the World Spins

The Southern Patriot published this cartoon just about 10 years ago—in the fall of 1947. We decided that now, with a new decade as well as a new year starting, was a good time to reprint it. For one thing, that old world must be going around even faster now than it was in 1947—or maybe it just seems so because of the Sputniks up there spinning around. In any event, it's going to take some going to keep up with it. The Patriot likes to emphasize the encouraging side of the human relations picture, and it's true we've come a long way in the last 10 years—with school desegregation now becoming or beginning to become a reality in 10 of the 17 southern states and the District of Columbia. But at this time of New Year's resolutions, it would be well to remember how far we have yet to go: The latest report from the Southern Education Reporting Service shows only 761 of the 3,008 bi-racial school districts in the region desegregated. The turtle has to move a little faster in the Age of Sputnik.

SCEF to Report Voting Violations

A "Report from the South"—a public conference on violations of voting rights—will be sponsored by SCEF in Washington, D. C., April 27.

Purpose of the conference will be to publicize the techniques used to keep Negroes from registering and voting in the Deep South. Speakers who have direct experience with these techniques will give brief first-hand reports.

Plans for the conference were made at the semi-annual meeting of the SCEF board of directors in Atlanta in December. Bishop Edgar A. Love, an SCEF vice-president, was named chairman of local arrangements. Watch subsequent issues of The Patriot for details.

The SCEF board will hold its spring meeting in Washington on April 26, the day before the public conference.

Editor Says Progress In Texas Will Influence Louisiana to Desegregate

Progress in Texas will wear away resistance to desegregation of the schools in Louisiana, Ronnie Dugger told a meeting in New Orleans recently.

Dugger is editor of *The Texas Observer*, a liberal weekly newspaper published in Austin. He spoke at the annual Human Rights Day celebration sponsored by the Southern Conference Educational Fund.

The editor noted that court tests of segregation are being presented on the edge of the Deep South, of which he considers Texas the left flank. As these cases are won, he said, the challenge is carried closer to the core of resistance in Louisiana.

Dugger discussed the likelihood of crises at Dallas and Houston when schools are desegregated in those cities. Once these crises are passed and the schools opened, other Texas cities will yield and East Texas will be breached, he declared. (More than 100 school districts have been desegregated in Texas, but none are in East Texas.)

Dugger urged that citizens who wish to uphold the U. S. Supreme Court decision in the School Segregation Cases should form themselves into local organizations "against civil violence." The fundamental issue, he said, is authority versus violence, as ultimately only violent resistance can hold back the slow but irreversible trend toward integration.

He suggested, therefore, that private citizens appeal to the broad majority of the South's population who believe in law and order, and that their sentiments be organized in advance of the sharpening of local tension in consequence of court orders.

Once ordinary Southern citizens realize that violence is the only means by which school desegregation can be avoided, they will comply with the law, Dugger declared.

The Rev. Clarence H. Snelling, Jr., director of the Wesley Foundation at Tulane University and an SCEF board member, was chairman of the meeting at which Dugger spoke.

Change Rule 22

The SCEF Board of Directors has authorized the Southwide circulation of a petition to the United States Senate to modify Rule 22 to limit filibustering.

The petition will be presented at the opening of the new Congress in January, 1959.

Hupp Named Secretary

Dr. James L. Hupp, professor of education at West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, W. Va., was elected secretary of SCEF at the recent board of directors meeting. He succeeds the late Dr. Alva W. Taylor of Louisville, Ky.

Mrs. Fred Zengel of Louisiana was named assistant secretary.

Elected to membership on the board were Bishop C. Ewbank Tucker, Kentucky; the Rev. Albert J. Kissling, Florida; the Rev. Stephen P. Spottswood, Arkansas; Dr. Carl C. Taylor, Virginia; Mrs. Naomi Parnell, Louisiana, and the Rev. E. C. Estell, Dr. Richard H. Powers, and Dr. Paul F. Boller, all of Texas.

Southern News Roundup

Whites Protest Attacks On NAACP

The American Civil Liberties Union is challenging a city ordinance in North Little Rock, Ark., requiring organizations to register and disclose members and contributors. The law is aimed primarily at the NAACP. The ACLU was one of the organizations of which registration was demanded; it refused, on principle.

Patrick Murphy Malin, ACLU executive director, said the organization does not actually have an active organized branch in the city now but hopes to remedy that situation soon.

Jim Stickter of Corpus Christi, Tex., a white member of the State Republican Committee, announced that he has applied for membership in the NAACP.

He said he did so because of a new state law aimed at curbing NAACP activities in the state. Stickter, an architect, said he would also join any other racial or religious group "slated for harrassment."

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When Abe Abbington, a Negro football player at the integrated Pawnee, Okla., high school, suffered a game injury this fall, six white teammates gave blood for transfusions; the girls' pep club held a prayer meeting for his recovery; and 250 persons — white, Negro, and Indian—lined up to assist him in any way they could.

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Alabama State Senator Sam Engelhardt revealed that he is planning a new attack on Negroes at Tuskegee. He is exploring the possibility of changing Tuskegee Institute from a private school to a state-supported and state-controlled college. He said this would give the state some control over the faculty.

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Complete desegregation of six State-operated colleges in Tennessee next September has been approved by the State Board of Education.

The board's action resulted from a suit brought by Negroes seeking admission to Memphis State University. The action applies to all State-financed institutions except the University of Tennessee, which is controlled by a separate board. U. T. has admitted Negroes to some of its graduate colleges but none at the undergraduate level.

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Three Negro doctors in Wilmington, N. C., have sued in Federal court, seeking the right to practice in James Walker Memorial Hospital there. The hospital is publicly owned and ministers to both white and Negro patients, but only white physicians are allowed to practice there. A hearing on the suit is set for February 12.

Doctor Is First

Dr. Robert W. Dockery, Negro opthalmologist of Louisville, Ky., recently delivered a professional paper at a meeting of the Kentucky State Medical Association. It was the first time that a Negro had addressed the conference and also one of the very few times that a Negro has spoken before a major meeting of a white medical association.

"For My Child . . ."

"I want for my child and for every child of God the right to lift his eyes and to say within himself, 'There is a place for me in America, in South Carolina if I choose. There is work for my hands and brain. There is happiness and achievement waiting for me if I am true to the best that is within me.' I do not want the color of his skin to kill that dream or a lack of educational opportunity to place chains upon his spirit more terrible than the iron chains that shackled the limbs of his forebears."

Statement in booklet, South Carolinians Speak, by Mrs. Claudia Thomas Sanders, Gaffney, S. C., whose home was bombed after the booklet was published.

N. C. Attorney Warns of Law Breakdown

Disrespect for the U. S. Supreme Court is causing a general breakdown of law and order on the local level in the South—on issues other than race relations, a prominent white Winston-Salem attorney recently told an audience in Raleigh, N. C.

The attorney, Irving Carlyle, who is also an active Baptist layman, gave the keynote address at a Conference on Christian Faith and Human Relations. Over 400 persons attended the conference, about two-thirds of them white and one-third Negro.

The main program of the conference featured statements by leaders of five major Christian denominations on the positions their groups have taken against segregation.

In his address, Carlyle said "the truth that all men are entitled to freedom is on the side of the U. S. Supreme Court's desegregation decision." He added that resistance to desegregation in Little Rock was a threat to constitutional government and that history would place the blame "exactly where it belongs—squarely on the shoulders of Gov. Orval Faubus."

The International Union of Electrical Workers asked the National Labor Relations Board to declare it illegal for employers to use "race hate propaganda" to defeat union organizing campaigns in the South. The union filed the complaint in regard to an election in Bay Springs, Miss.

McMath Says WCC Is Also Anti-Labor

The White Citizens Councils are "centers of anti-unionism," former Governor Sid McMath of Arkansas said recently.

McMath made the statement on a television program, "Labor Views the News." He said some members of the labor movement in the South have been "hoodwinked" by WCC leaders.

"First they stir up labor leaders to oppose colored persons in schools," he added, still referring to the WCC leadership. "Then they work up feeling against colored persons in shops, then in unions, all which serves to weaken organized labor."

A South Carolina law aimed at halting NAACP activities was invalidated by a circuit court ruling in Florence recently, but the case was one involving a labor organizer—not the NAACP.

Irving Lebold, white organizer for the International Retail Clerks Association, had been arrested under the law which prohibits the calling of a meeting without first obtaining a county permit. Circuit Judge James M. Brailsford ruled the 1957-enacted law unconstitutional. It was widely thought that this ruling would also apply to NAACP meetings.

Help Tallahassee

Judge W. May Walker of Tallahassee, Fla., has upheld the conviction of two Negro students and one white student arrested for violating segregated seating regulations on the city's buses.

The Tallahassee Inter-Civic Council announced that it is preparing to take the case to the higher courts. Financial help is needed; contributions may be sent to the Council at 803 Floral St., Tallahassee.

Voices of Youth

Students Urge Ike to Call Meeting

Student representatives from 14 high schools in the Asheville, N. C., area have called on President Eisenhower "to call a national conference of high school youth concerned with making our schools a living example of democracy and brotherhood."

The appeal was voted at a youth institute on human relations sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Greater Asheville Inter-group Youth Congress.

A statement made by the assembled students said they were "saddened and disappointed when a few young people of our age group participated in acts of violence in their schools at the beginning of this school year."

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Fraternities which reside in houses financed by State funds should be required to alter their restrictions against Negro membership or leave the campus, a signed article in the University of Kentucky's student newspaper declared recently.

The author was James Bland, Louisville, a member of the newspaper staff. He wrote the article immediately after a meeting of the National Interfraternity Conference in Colorado Springs condemned college "interference" with their discriminatory membership policies.

A few days after Bland's article appeared, a cross was burned on the lawn of his residence.

A Methodist youth group, representing some 12,000 members in the western half of Kentucky, adopted a resolution endorsing racial integration and urging young people to interpret integration in the schools in terms "of Christian opportunity and not of legal compulsion."

Segregationists Lose

The silent people of the South spoke decisively in recent elections in two major cities.

William B. Hartsfield, longtime mayor of Atlanta, won re-election by 2 to 1 over an opponent who accused Hartsfield of catering to the city's Negro citizens for political reasons. The mayor was called soft on the segregation issue and "controlled by the NAACP."

In Houston, Negroes and trade-unionists defeated Mayor Oscar Holcombe in his bid for election to his 12th term. Holcombe, under attack for scandals in his administration, raised the race issue and distributed literature hostile to unions. Lewis Cutrer beat him by around 28,000 votes out of 106,000.

Voices of the Church

Tennessee Council Backs Integration

The Tennessee Council of Churches has come out for the desegregation of public schools in that state.

The Council, a biracial group, claims 600,000 members and represents 13 Protestant denominations. It urged in a resolution "that the Tennessee school system be brought into harmony with the letter and spirit of the Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954."

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Eighteen white Protestant ministers of one of the largest suburbs of Washington, D. C., issued a joint statement condemning racial segregation as un-Christian and pledging resistance to "any organization which incites race prejudice and undermines respect for law."

The ministers are members of the Bethesda, Md., Council of Churches. The statement added:

"We find it hard to understand how our forefathers could reconcile human slavery and Christianity. The day will come when Christians in the future will find it difficult to understand how we could justify racial discrimination and segregation."

Wades Selling House To Protect Children

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wade, IV announced that they are selling their home in a Louisville, Ky., suburb because the County Police Department has never arrested and convicted those who dynamited the house in June, 1954.

The Wades finally gained clear title to the house, which had made international news, when a Chicago couple loaned them money last spring to pay off the mortgage and settle two foreclosure suits. The house was rebuilt last summer.

Wade said recent grand jury disclosures of corruption in the County Police Department had convinced his wife that the department would never provide adequate protection to her and their two little girls.

Oppressed Minorities Are Called Best Hope for American Ideals

The help and guidance of our oppressed minority groups are needed if the United States is to recapture a realization of the principles on which she was founded.

This theme was developed by Mrs. Sarah Patton Boyle, white author and lecturer from Charlottesville, Va., in a speech at Knoxville, Tenn. Mrs. Boyle, an SCEF board member, spoke in the face of a barrage of abuse and harassment by the White Citizens Council.

"Our oppressed minorities understand the American ideal much better than people of my group understand it," the speaker told an audience of Negro and white citizens.

"The modern Negro leader has a firm grip on American ideals which white Americans have not enjoyed since Jeffersonian days. Did you ever stop to think that the situation of the modern American Negro almost parallels that of white Americans before the Revolution?

"England discriminated against and oppressed us in the same way in which the white South now discriminates against the oppressed Negroes. And the result has been the same. Negroes today are swept with the realization of the dignity of man, the rights of every individual and the certainty that brotherhood is the destiny of the human race.

"Even while the haters and the profiteers frantically entrench themselves at the Clintons, the Montgomeries, and the Little Rocks of the South, the number of their followers is being reduced daily without fanfare.

"They are being reduced by Negro leaders whose moral and intellectual superiority is so apparent to all that the myth of racial inferiority withers on the stem. They are being reduced by the moral force of Negroes who will not surrender and yet will not hate.

"They are being reduced by the sight of Negro children who march to school with brave dignity in the face of booing mobs because of their faith that decency will prevail."